

NOV 22 2006

Serial No. 09/870,323

REMARKSI. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated August 24, 2006, claims 2-4, 31, 54, 64, and 73-81, and 86 have been cancelled, claims 1, 28, 32, 53, and 63 been amended, and 87-108 have been added. Claims 1, 5-30, 32-53, 55-63, 65-72, 82-85, and 87-108 are in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 9, the Office Action indicates that the subject matter of claims 4, 6-9, 31-34, 54, and 64 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Applicants have amended the claims to render the foregoing claims allowable, and to also present new claims reciting the features of allowable claim 6. Accordingly, the Applicants believe that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Amendments

Applicants' attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above. These amendments were made solely for the purpose of expediting allowance, and with the intent of pursuing additional claim scope in continuing applications.

IV. Non-Art Rejections

In paragraph 3, the Office Action rejects claims 1-86 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. According to the Office Action

"... claim 1 is indefinite because the limitation '... selected by a first control signal applied at the input' is unclear. The specification and drawing show that the first control signal and the first signal are two different signals applied at two different terminals. As understood, the first control signal is a signal that controls the multiswitch 336, and the first signal is the output of the multiswitch. Therefore, it is indefinite to recite the first signal and the first control signal applied at the same input signal."

Serial No. 09/870,323

The Applicants regret the confusion, but embodiments having the features recited in claim 1 is indeed described in the specification and drawings. For example, the Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to FIG. 3A (reproduced below), and in the following text:

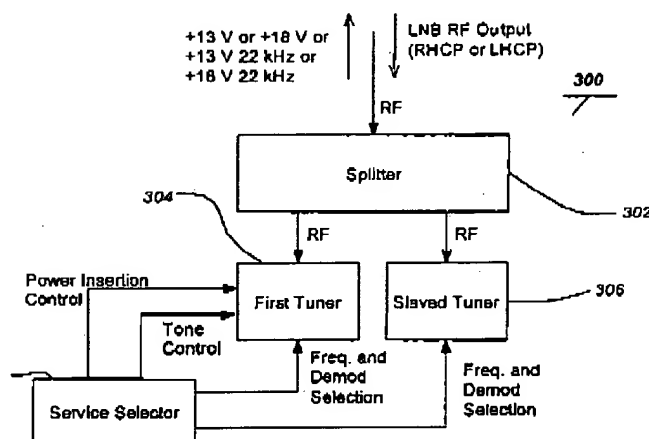


FIG. 3A

"This summed output from the combiner 202 is then provided to a single input of the multi-switch 114. The multi-switch 114 generally comprises a cross-bar switch, wherein any of the outputs can be connected to any of the inputs. The selection of which input to connect to a desired output via the multi-switch 140 is controlled by a signal received on the coaxial cable from the IRD 110, in a manner well known in the art (e.g., an 18V, 13V, 18V / 22 kHz, or 13V / 22 kHz signal from the IRD 110 selects one of the four inputs to the multi-switch 114)."

Claim 1 has been amended for additional clarity. As amended, claim 1 recites:

A system for receiving continuous services, comprising:

a first splitter having an input, a first output and a slaved output, the first splitter receiving a first signal at the input having a single polarization and including a first service and a slaved service, wherein the first signal is directed to the first output and the slaved output and is selected by a first control signal applied at the input;

a first tuner receiving the first output and tuning the first service; and

a slaved tuner receiving the slaved output and tuning the slaved service.

Referring to the example shown in FIG. 3A, the first splitter is splitter 302, the first output is the output of the splitter provided to the first tuner 304, and the slaved output is the output provided to the slaved tuner 306. The Office Action suggests that the "first control signal" is the

Serial No. 09/870,323

one that controls the multiswitch. This is correct. The multiswitch not shown in FIG. 3A, but would be located upstream of the splitter 302. As described in the text, the multiswitch is a crossbar switch that is selected by receiving a signal on a coax cable from the IRD (or receiver 300). In one embodiment, "an 18V, 13V, 18V / 22 kHz, or 13V / 22 kHz signal from the IRD 110 selects one of the four inputs to the multi-switch". Referring again to FIG. 3A, upwards directed arrow represents the control signal from the IRD to the microswitch, and this control signal indeed selects the first signal, as recited in claim 1. While it may seem incongruous to have an input signal and a control signal on the same terminal, that is indeed the case, and is done to minimize connections.

If the Examiner has further questions regarding the scope of claim 1 or how that claim is described in the specification, the Applicant's invite the Examiner to contact counsel at the telephone number below.

The remaining claims are likewise described in the specification as well.

V. New Claims

New claims 87-108 are presented to claim the subject matter from allowable claim 6. Hence, new claims 87-108 are patentable over the prior art of record, and the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of these claims as well.

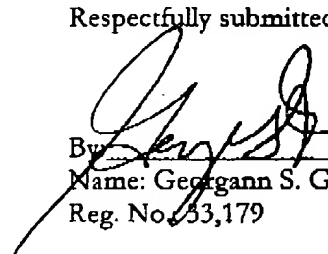
Serial No. 09/870,323

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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